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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 3 November 1997 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I would like to bring to your attention agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1997 coordination segment on "Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system". These can be found in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/52/3, chap. IV, para. 4).

As reflected in section II of the agreed conclusions, the Council addressed specific recommendations to intergovernmental bodies and the entities of the United Nations system to achieve tangible results in gender mainstreaming. The Council also provided a definition and principles for gender mainstreaming (sect. I, A and B).

Among the recommendations addressed to intergovernmental bodies, the Council encourages the General Assembly to direct all its committees and bodies and to draw the attention of other bodies of the United Nations system to the need to mainstream a gender perspective systematically in all areas of their work (sect. II, A). In an indicative list, the Council identified macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security, and legal and political matters as areas where gender mainstreaming needs to be pursued systematically.

The Council further noted that all bodies dealing with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, should ensure in their work that all programmes visibly mainstream a gender perspective.

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I would appreciate it if you could draw the attention of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees and bodies of the General Assembly to these agreed conclusions. I am confident that the Assembly, in its future work, will give due consideration to the recommendations of the Council with regard to gender mainstreaming.

(Signed) Vladimir GALUSKA
President of the
Economic and Social Council